



LGL Alaska Research Associates, Inc.

1101 E. 76th Avenue, Suite B
Anchorage, Alaska 99518 USA
Tel: (907) 562-3339 Fax: (907) 562-7223
e-mail: alaska@lgl.com web: www.lgl.com

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email: mwilliams@lgl.com

Ms. Barbara Fosburg
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
Office of Protected Resources, Alaska Region
P.O. Box 21668
Juneau, AK 99802-1668

Re: ***Semi-annual Performance Report***

Dear Ms. Fosburg,

Enclosed, on behalf of LGL Alaska Research Associates, Inc. and the Aleut Community of St. Paul please find our first semi-annual performance report for Award NA16FX1420.

This report, due on 31 March 2002, has been prepared by LGL and reviewed by staff of the Aleut Community of St. Paul to satisfy the reporting requirements of this Award. In summary, LGL staff traveled to St. Paul to initiate the project with local hunters and LGL has requested an amendment to scientific research permit 481-1623-00 to allow for the collection and transport of tissues collected from the subsistence harvest of Steller sea lions. Please be advised that Jessy Coltrane is no longer employed by LGL and is not involved in this project.

We hope this information is of use to you. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at (907) 562-3339.

Sincerely,

LGL Alaska Research Associates, Inc.

Michael T. Williams
Marine Mammal Biologist

Established in 1971

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cc: Philip Zavadil (St. Paul)
Richard Zacharof (St. Paul)
W. John Richardson (LGL, King City)
William Wilson (LGL, Anchorage)
Peter Jones (NMFS)

A. Project Identifiers

- 1) Award Number: NA16FX1420
- 2) Grant Program/CFDA#
- 3) Name of Recipient Org: Aleut Community of St. Paul Island
- 4) Principal Investigator: Michael T. Williams
- 5) Project Title: Subsistence Harvest Monitoring of Steller Sea Lions on St. Paul Island, Alaska
- 6) Funding: Federal: \$210,957 Match: \$0
- 7) Award Period: 1 September 2001 to 31 August 2004
- 8) Period Covered by this Report: 1 September 2001 to 28 February 2002

B. Project Summary

This project will continue and enhance the ability of the local communities in St. Paul and St. George to monitor and self-regulate the subsistence harvest of Steller sea lions. Work to be completed in year 1 includes writing a report summarizing other efforts to monitor and manage the subsistence harvest of marine mammals by indigenous peoples, continue to monitor the subsistence harvest of Steller sea lions as it has been for the past three years, and coordinate the collection of tissues from sea lions harvested and ship those samples to researchers. In year 2 the project will implement a monitoring and self-regulatory program based on the recommendations of the Year 1 report and public involvement. Harvest monitoring and coordination of sampling will continue in Year 2. In addition, during the subsistence fur seal harvest we will implement a pinniped tissue sampler training program. Year 3 will be a continuation of harvest monitoring and coordination of sampling of the Steller sea lion harvest.

C. Summary of Progress and Results

The goal of this project is to design and implement a harvest monitoring and tissue sampling program for Steller sea lions.

- 1) Tasks implemented to meet objectives for this reporting period
 - a) *Objective 1: Design and implement a monitoring program for the subsistence harvest of Steller sea lions on St. Paul Island, Alaska.*
Travel to St. Paul to meet with the community and the local members of Pribilof Islands Marine Mammal Commission to present the program and discuss plans to implement the program.
 - b) *Objective 2: Train samplers from other rural Alaska communities in tissue sampling techniques for pinnipeds that would be useful for samplers in other communities which harvest Steller sea lions.*
Contact the scientific research permit office in Silver Spring, MD regarding permitting needs for the project.
 - c) *Objective 3: Devise and implement a marine mammal tissue collection and distribution center for samples collected from marine mammals taken during subsistence harvests.*
Contact the scientific research permit office in Silver Spring, MD regarding permitting needs for the project. Meet with subsistence hunters and samplers to determine a viable sampling program that does not conflict with subsistence needs.
- 2) Activities undertaken to achieve tasks
 - a) *Objective 1: Design and implement a monitoring program for the subsistence harvest of Steller sea lions on St. Paul Island, Alaska.*

The PI and research personnel from LGL Alaska Research Associates, Inc. traveled to St. Paul Island on 1 October 2001 to meet with the community and the local members of Pribilof Islands Marine Mammal Commission to discuss the program. We developed an outline of the harvest monitoring summary report, revised it based on local suggestions. We discussed the present monitoring program and the local residents' perception of the success and usefulness of the existing monitoring program.

b) *Objective 2: Train samplers from other rural Alaska communities in tissue sampling techniques for pinnipeds that would be useful for samplers in other communities which harvest Steller sea lions.*

Initiated discussions with the scientific research permit office on amending permit #481-1623 issued to Dr. W. J. Richardson of LGL Ltd. We are presently preparing an amendment to the permit based on the suggestions from the permit office.

c) *Objective 3: Devise and implement a marine mammal tissue collection and distribution center for samples collected from marine mammals taken during subsistence harvests.*

Initiated discussions with the scientific research permit office to amend permit #481-1623 issued to Dr. W. J. Richardson of LGL Ltd. We are presently preparing an amendment to the permit based on the suggestions from the permit office. We have developed a memorandum of understanding to be used to identify the needs of scientists interested in receiving samples from the subsistence harvest and the local community in learning the results of the research.

3) If changes provide details:

None

4) Describe results or products produced during the reporting period (attach)

LGL outlined the report of harvest monitoring programs and tissue sampling results. LGL began preparation of the report and accumulating the literature needed. LGL initiated discussions with the permits, and with guidance from the permit office, will proceed with an amendment to LGL's permit #481-1623 to authorize the collection of tissues from the subsistence harvest of Steller sea lions and northern fur seals in the Pribilof Islands. The tribal government of St. Paul continued to monitor the subsistence harvest under the existing framework and has continued to assist researchers in collecting samples from animals harvested for subsistence purposes.

D. Problems

- 1) Explain circumstances of problems that prevented completion of scheduled tasks, i.e., need for time extension, shortage of funds, budget revision
- 2) Describe actions taken to resolve
- 3) Explain special problems or differences between budgeted and actual expenditures